

MARC

OF AMATEUR RADIO CENTRAL INDIANA

Ham Radio News From Central Indiana

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Upgrades: VE Testing April 16, 1994

Ron Atkins	Greenwood	Tech
David Baker N9PVE	Greenwood	General
Helen Ballew	Indianapolis	NC Tech
David Clay *	Mooreville	NC Tech
John Cooper N9VZD	Flat Rock	General
Robert DeSpain * WB5VZT	Greenwood	Advanced
George Frost WA9BXM	Flat Rock	Advanced
Russell Gard	Indianapolis	NC Tech
Stephen Imlay	Seymour	NC Tech
Larry Intermill KA9RCP	Greenfield	Advanced
Bruce Larabee	North Vernon	NC Tech
Bruce McClary KA9RWW	Indianapolis	General
David Norris N9RSN	Indianapolis	General
Maynard Payne	Shelbyville	NC Tech
Tim Sanford	Flat Rock	NC Tech
Dean Strietelmeier * N9VDS	Indianapolis	Advanced
Alex Whitaker	Whiteland	Novice

* indicates a member of Mid-State ARC

under the authority of the Radio Act of 1912, created the Amateur First Grade and the Amateur Second Grade licenses.

In 1923, the Department of Commerce created the Amateur Extra First Grade license - a license so special that it was printed on pink paper! Only Amateur Extra First Grade licensees thereafter qualified for "special" station licenses, which had distinctive call signs and conveyed CW privileges on wavelengths longer than 200 meters.

The Radio Act of 1927 transferred the power to issue station licenses to the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), while preserving the authority of the Commerce Department's Radio Division to issue operator licenses. Later, in 1932, the Radio Division and the FRC were merged.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) succeeded the FRC when the Communications Act of 1934 became law. The FCC revised the regulations in 1951 to create the license classes and their names as we know them today.

Our heritage...

There is an interesting article in the May issue of QST about the history of amateur licenses. The following article is a summary of the government's regulation.

Before 1912 there was no licensing, no regulations, and no governing body to oversee "wireless" activities. Mandatory licensing began when the US Department of Commerce and Labor.

Tid-bits...

New Repeater Directory

*** The new edition of the ARRL Repeater Directory will debut at the Dayton Ham Vention. The 1994-95 edition has been reorganized for easier use "on the run," and has more than 20,000 listings of FM repeaters, packet systems, and propagation beacons.

License expirations

*** The US Amateur population held steady in January, as the first of a large number of license expirations began. The FCC added 2398 licensees and deleted 2282, leaving 631,726 licensed amateurs at the end of the first month of the year.

License waiting time

*** The Amateur license application backlog is on the rise again at the FCC. On February 1, 8543 were pending, and on February 28 there were 12,868 awaiting action, according to ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, KB9NM, who also says turnaround time in Gettysburg is hovering around the FCC's self-imposed maximum of 90 days.

Fines for broadcast

*** The FCC has reaffirmed a \$17,500 fine against a Chambersburg, Pennsylvania man, Andrew R. Yoder who the Commission says "willfully and repeatedly" operated an unlicensed broadcast station on 7415 kHz in 1990 and 1991. Yoder had filed an application for review of the May 1992 FCC forfeiture order; in March the FCC denied the application and gave Yoder 30

days to pay the fine.

Illegal power amplifiers

*** In Florida, the FCC issued Notices of Apparent Liability to three Citizen's-band operators, for violations including using illegal power amplifiers. The fines were for \$1000, \$1500, and \$4000.

Unauthorized frequencies

*** The FCC also released a list of eight individuals cited recently for violations including "operating radio stations without proper authorization and operating on unauthorized frequencies." The fines ranged from \$250 to \$6400. Further details were not given.

Washington State to protect amateurs

Washington State has new legislation to protect amateurs. On March 23, the governor signed Senate Bill 5697, a bill that will, according to its backers, limit the ability of municipalities to enact antenna and tower regulations, by pointing out the federal pre-emptions of the FCC's PRB-1.

Credited with promoting this legislation were DR. Ralph Schumaker, WX7T, and members of the Mike and Key Club of Seattle, according to ARRL State Government Liaison Frank Price, KD7AC.

Price said that members of the Senate initially were sympathetic to the bill, which is worded in general terms, but they also real-

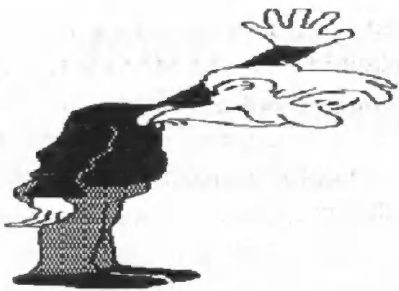
ized that municipalities have an obligation to consider issues concerning health, safety, and other factors concerning general welfare. "Tests of the provisions of this bill will come, I am sure," Price said, "in the near future."

The bill reads: *No (city or town, code city, or county) shall enact or enforce an ordinance or regulation that fails to conform to the limited pre-emption entitled "Amateur Radio Preemption, 101 FCC 2nd 952 (1985)" issued by the federal communications commission.*

An ordinance or regulation adopted by a city or town with respect to amateur radio antennas shall conform to the limited federal preemption, that states local regulations that involve placement, screening, or height of antennas based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations must be crafted to reasonably accommodate amateur communications, and to represent the minimal practicable regulation to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose."

The bill's backers told the senators, as background, that "amateur radio operators seeking to erect antenna and support systems are often frustrated or delayed by restrictive local zoning ordinances.

While local government actions have been partially preempted by the Federal Communications Commission, amateur radio operators seek to avoid time, expense, and delay challenging local actions that fail to conform to the "FCC policy."



Are you the new kid on the block?

By Steve Ford, WB8IMY

You just bought your first 2-meter FM transceiver, but you seem to be doing more listening than transmitting. What's wrong?

All revved up and no place to go. You know the feeling . . . and so do I. You just unpacked your first 2-meter FM transceiver and you're dying to use it. You punch in the frequency of the local repeater and listen. Silence. This is the moment of truth. You key the microphone and, in your most confident voice, announce, "WB8IMY listening."

The repeater transmits for a few seconds, then stops. Surely someone is reaching for their microphone. They'll call you in just a few seconds . . . won't they? The seconds stretch into minutes. "WB8IMY listening," you announce again, this time with added urgency. Still nothing.

Again the lonely minutes pass. Maybe you just picked a bad time. You'll try again in an hour or so. As you reach for the POWER switch, the repeater suddenly comes to life.

"WB8ISZ this is WB8SVN. You around, Dave?"

"WB8SVN from WB8ISZ. I'm here. Did you just get off work?" Now you feel a new emotion—anger! It's a safe bet that one of these two guys were listening before. Why didn't they answer you? Is it because you're a new ham?

The Shy Communicators

Hams pride themselves on their ability to communicate, yet there is an odd contradiction: many hams are painfully shy! If you don't believe this, go to any hamfest. Chances are, you'll see hams whose call signs you recognize—hams who are constantly chattering on the local repeaters. So why are these same hams wandering around so quietly? When you approach them, why do they seem so ill at ease and reluctant to talk?

The answer lies in the nature of Amateur Radio itself. With the exception of visual modes such as ATV, no one can see you when you're on the air. You could be holding a conversation with someone while wearing little more than your underwear. They'd never know!

In other words, ham radio allows us to hold the world at arms length while still maintaining contact. It acts as a filter and a shield for those who are uncomfortable with close, personal communications.

Breaking through the shyness barrier to communicate with a stranger is difficult. Think back to your school days. When the teacher asked for student volunteers

for a project, why did you hesitate? Perhaps you wanted to see if anyone else was willing to join you. No one wants to be the first to raise their hand! A similar situation occurs on repeaters.

When you announced that you were listening, a dozen people may have heard you. No one recognized your call sign, though. You're a stranger, an unknown. It's as though the teacher just got on the repeater and asked for volunteers to speak to you. Who will be the first to step forward?

For many hams, the familiar line of reasoning is, "Hmmm . . . I don't know this guy. What would I say to him? Nah . . . I'll wait. I'm sure someone else will give him a call." The problem is, when all the hams on the repeater feel this way, no one replies!

And so it goes on repeaters throughout the country. The problem isn't you per se, it's that fact that you're a stranger. So how do you make the transition from stranger to friend?

Breaking the Ice

If you keep announcing that you're "listening," someone is bound to come back to you eventually. This could take a long time—especially if you're trying to start a conversation during less popular hours.

To really break the ice and shed your "stranger" label, you need to assert yourself on the air. That is, you need to become part of an existing conversation. Listen to the repeater during the early morning and late afternoon. That's when it's

likely to be used the most. As you hear stations talking to each other, listen for an opportunity to contribute something—even if it's just a question.

Let's say that you find two hams discussing computers . . .

"KR1S from WR1B. Well, I'm definitely going to pick up some extra memory at the show tomorrow. I figure I need at least 2 megabytes."

"I don't know, Larry. I think 4 megabytes would be a better choice for the kind of software you're running."

Even if you don't own a computer, I bet you can think of a question that will give you an excuse to join the conversation. In the pauses between their transmissions, announce your call sign.

"WB8IMY"

"Well, there's a new voice. Ah . . . WB8IMY . . . I think it was . . . this is KR1S. How can I help you?"

"Hello. My name is Steve and I live in Wallingford. I'm thinking about buying a computer for my Amateur Radio station, but I'm a little confused. You guys seem knowledgeable. Can you give me a recommendation?"

Perfect! Stroking a person's ego is the best way to get them talking! With luck, these fellows will be more than happy to show off their expertise. Just keep the questions and comments coming.

If you engage in enough of these conversations on the same repeater, you'll gradually melt through the shyness barrier. In time, your

call sign will be as familiar as any other. When you say, "WB8IMY listening," you'll have a much better chance of getting a response. After all, they'll know you.

Getting Involved

Another way to establish yourself is to become involved in club activities. Look for a local club that's active in public-service events. Attend the meetings regularly and be prepared to volunteer whenever they ask for help. Don't worry about your lack of experience in public-service operating. Believe me, it isn't that difficult. You'll be told exactly what to do and, in most cases, a experienced ham will be nearby.

Some Tips to Try

If you announce that you're "listening" and no one responds, wait and try again a few minutes later. You'll have better luck during the commuting hours in the morning and afternoon. And don't forget about the shyness factor. If no one replies, it's not that they don't like you, they just don't know you.

Try asking for a signal report rather than simply stating that you're "listening." A report request gives an otherwise shy ham an extra incentive to call you.

Join a club that's active in public-service activities. Volunteer for as many events as possible.

Whatever you do, don't let social fears keep you from enjoying Amateur Radio to its fullest. If the locals are too shy to talk to you, reach out and contact them. You'll both benefit from the experience!

Masonic Home event needs volunteers

Amateurs are needed for the Annual Indiana Masonic Home Festival which will take place on Sunday, June 12th. Bob Doles WB9AYB will coordinate the radio operations that day. Approximately 7 or 8 Amateurs with radios will be needed.

Free food and drinks will be provided throughout the day. Hams will furnish communications for the Masons who are parking cars, communications for a parade on the grounds, and communications for the Masonic officials in charge. The parade is scheduled to begin at 2 PM. Amateurs are free to leave after the parade.

This is an opportunity to enjoy some good food, fun and fellowship in the sun, and an opportunity to gain more experience in a type of operation that could have application for emergency type situations.

A few more operators are needed. If you can help please contact either Bob WB9AYB or Jack NT9J.



Who is this member of the club?

He attends most of the club meetings.

Last month's mystery club member was N9PUA



It's time for everyone to get involved!

As early as 1917 records show that women have been a part of Amateur Radio! A Miss Maris Dolores Estrasa passed an examination for the highest class of license awarded by the Department of Commerce in 1917. This was the first lady to receive a First Grade Commercial Wireless Operator's license.

She was at Villaneuva when the first Mexican Revolution broke out and joined the staff of the revolutionary leader, Madero. When Madero triumphed, she was appointed in charge of the Mazapil Telegraph Office. During later turmoil in the country she was less fortunate. In 1913, having this time chosen the losing side, she ended up in jail with her mother. After being released she came to the United States in 1916 to study English. She later obtained her wireless license in five months.

The role of the fairer sex in wireless activities was a stormy one. In 1819 the *Wireless World* said in an editorial, "with few exceptions, the feminine temperament is an uncertain factor in times of emergency." The editorial ended with, "to introduce women for wireless work would be unfair to

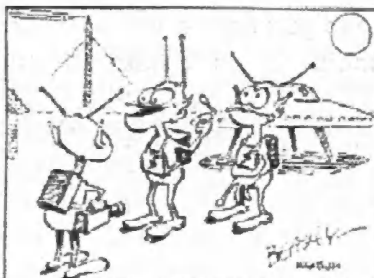
womenkind and the mercantile marine."

But times have changed! The ladies have proven to be as reliable in emergencies as men, and in some cases have out-performed men in their ability to weather an emergency situation. (Most of the 911 operators in large urban areas are women, and many women are active on Emergency and Medical response teams.)

There are 12 lady members in our club at the present time. This represents nearly 10 percent of our membership. During this year alone, 12 percent of persons taking tests with our test team have been women. So where are you gals? We need to have more of you actively involved in our club activities. With Field Day coming up you have an excellent opportunity to participate! Don't be afraid to grab a microphone and call, "CQ FIELD DAY!"

Here are our lady members: Andrea Wendt KB9AWK, Debbie Julian KB9AXD, Joan Kemp N9DON, Barb Cohoon KB9GWV, Doroitha Middleton WA9JSB, Karen Vergara N9KMH, Reba Benson N9QKQ, Judith Montgomery N9RDO, Monda Holland N9RDR, Marilyn Parton N9TUK, Mary Shelly N9VKJ, and Gayla Davis N9WKV. So, let's hear from our 10 percent!

-NV9K



I JUST MET SOME EARTHWORM HAM-- HE TOLD ME TO READ THESE STORIES AND HE SAID THEY'LL ACT LIKE A PHASED AGONY!

License your XYL!

By Cindy Rogers KD4EVS

Often a male ham asks me how to get his wife or girlfriend interested in Amateur Radio. The first thing I tell them is to forget trying to force her. It won't work.

I know. I once regarded radio as a rival for my beloved's affections. That was before he encouraged me to study and become a ham. Here are some ideas that might help.

Promise to buy her a tiny radio that will fit in her purse, and a Callbook with her call in it. Promise her callsign plates for her car. Bring her to hamfests, and spend time with her there! Offer to teach her, or arrange for another ham to help-especially another female ham. In other words, make the process attractive.

Compliment her on her technical achievement in learning radio theory. We women hams don't want to be thought of as "lucky one-test wonders."

And (don't choke) make room for her in the ham shack. (I can just hear all those jaws hitting the floor.) Don't encourage her to get her license only to leave her out of hamming. And when you're with other people (especially other hams) let your pride in her achievement show!

Amateur Radio has improved the marriage of this hamette and her radio Romeo! It's a hobby we enjoy together, as well as a service to others. And together we enjoy the friendship of the best people in the world: other hams!

from "Triangle East ARA and ARNS.



Increasing your code speed

By Lee Aurick, WISE

You Can Copy Thirty Words Per Minute! Are you finding it difficult to increase your code speed? Use these techniques to go as high as 30 words per minute--or beyond!

I qualified for an ARRL 30 word-per-minute code proficiency certificate in 1954. In the nearly 40 years that have passed since then, it's been my pleasure to help more than a thousand people pass their code tests. After so many years of teaching, I've managed to accumulate a small collection of helpful tips. I've also observed a few things that, in my opinion, you should avoid.

Let's start abolishing the notion it's only necessary to practice 15- or 20- minutes at a time, a couple of times a week. I have one word for that idea: nonsense! By the time you get around to your next practice session, you may slip back to where you were before. At this pace, progress is slow--tantalizingly slow.

Code instructors should be honest with their students. They should tell them that it's going to require some effort and dedication. A coach doesn't tell his basketball hopefuls that the road to the NBA is lined with velvet. He tells them that there are tough times ahead. Why are they less truthful with aspiring hams?

The Farnsworth Method

Should a code student begin at five words per minute and work upward from there? How about starting at 50 words per minute instead? (I can hear the gasps now.) No, I'm not suggesting that we bombard them with CW conversations at that speed--just characters!

This technique is put to good use in what has come to be known as the "Farnsworth Method." The letters are formed at anywhere from 15 to 18 words per minute, but are sent with 5 word-per-minute spacing. It may seem like an unusual method, but it works.

You begin by learning each character. As soon as you're confident that you know each letter, number and punctuation mark, start decreasing the spacing between them. The sounds of the characters remain the same, only the spacing changes.

Within a short time, you'll reduce the spacing from the 5 WPM level to 18 WPM. During this process you don't need to relearn the characters--you already know them at 18 WPM! In other words, they're the same characters you learned the first time around. They're just coming at you faster.

Code Practice Tapes

Some of the worst tapes in existence are those which purport to send code as though you are listening to two stations having a conversation. Many use very poor procedures, and that's reason enough not to use them. As a new ham, the last things you need to learn are bad habits. In addition,

these tapes are easily memorized, making them nearly worthless for instruction.

On the other hand, tapes that use the Farnsworth Method are fine learning tools for new hams and I encourage you to use them. (ARRL practice tapes employ the Farnsworth Method.)

Tapes notwithstanding, if you already have a Novice or Technician ticket, I have four very important words for you: **GET ON THE AIR**. Seek out stations working just a bit faster than you can copy. So what, if you have to ask the other station to repeat his or her name?

The code practice available from W1AW is an excellent way in which to determine just how fast you're capable of copying. Use W1AW to measure your progress as you practice.

Complete radio station for sale

An area church has some Amateur Radio Equipment for sale. This is equipment that was used to maintain contact with a missionary in Haiti who was forced to evacuate.

The equipment for sale consists of a Kenwood 830-S, Kenwood antenna tuner, MC-50 Mike, 35 foot tower, rotor, and beams complete with coax and fittings.

If you know of anyone interested in part or all of this equipment contact Randy or Peggy at 787-6229.

Should we change the 13 WPM CW to 10 WPM?

The biggest news out of Dayton involves a plan being hatched by amateur radio equipment manufacturers and magazine publishers. They want easier licensing requirements for access to HF spectrum. Amateur Radio Industry Group members say the 13 word per minute Morse Code requirement for HF access should be lowered to 10 words a minute and they plan to work toward that goal.

At their April 28th meeting, group members discussed the plan, including petitioning the Federal Communications Commission. Giving advice to the group is former FCC official Ray Kowalski. He tells group members the timing for such a move is excellent, since Washington's political climate is so heavily geared toward emerging technologies.

"What's good for amateur radio is good for America. This is where the technicians and the bright young minds get their start. This is the fertile ground where they are planted. And if we don't nurture that and keep it growing and going, comes the next time we need engineers maybe we will rent them from Taiwan or some place, we will not have them home grown." Ray Kowalski, former FCC official.

The hottest selling ham gear lately has been VHF and UHF equipment. That reflects the strong growth in codeless technician class hams.

But equipment manufacturers are frustrated by marginal profits from sales of big ticket HF items. Some manufacturers say current code requirements act as a barrier to hams who would otherwise populate the HF bands. Ray Kowalski, currently a Washington lawyer dealing in communications issues, tells group members they should act on their wishes before the year is out.

"There is a window of opportunity that is now open. In Washington, when a new administration comes in, it takes them a year to get their act together, and by the fourth year they are hunkering down for the election. They don't want to do anything that will make anybody mad. So there is that two year window of opportunity in any administration where everything gets done. We are in that window now. So this is a great time to be thinking about what changes are necessary and natural for this service, this hobby, what ever you want to call it." Ray Kowalski, former FCC official.

One of those attending the amateur group meeting is Yaesu USA's Kevin Karamanos, WD6DIH.

"I think in the long term the industry is going to try to get together and promote the technician to move up to general class and hopefully populate the HF bands. We need to do what ever we can to get more folks up there and move up." Kevin Karamanos, WD6DIH, Yaesu USA.

Are the Radio makers trying to control our hobby?

EDITORIAL

Every now and then there is a development in Amateur Radio that requires some real consideration by the members of our hobby! The other column on this page suggests that we should lower the code requirements from 13 to 10 WPM CW for the general class license. It is also obvious that the reason for the suggestion is to increase sales of HF equipment!

Now, doesn't this sound familiar? Lower the requirements to sell more radios? Surely the Federal Government will love this! The same government that on the one hand berates the educational systems for not producing better graduates but who on the other hand passes laws and quota systems that lower the standards of admission to our colleges!

Can you think of any situation where the product was improved by lowering the quality (standards)? Probably not, but our manufacturers think otherwise.

We made the entry level easier with the no-code tech license which was a means of getting more hams licensed. These new techs can see the advantages of upgrading to acquire HF priveleges. Many have passed the 13 WPM code to graze in these greener pastures! Other techs are preparing to do so soon. So why change?

I have no quarrel with making changes that will improve our hobby. But changes should be made for the *right reason*, not for selling more radios! -NV9K



How to convince your wife

By Dick McKlveen
W4YWA

How do we convince the spouse to let us put up an antenna tower on our property? Convincing our disinterested, uninitiated, unbriefed, unsympathetic overseer that such an addition to the family ranch could benefit the family, the neighbors, the town, and whole darned country is a big order. No?

The author's Brain Trust and Think Tank have directed their skills toward this problem, and have come up with justifications for a tower-despite its utter lack of merit in the eyes of anyone other than a ham.

A key factor in initiating debate on the worthiness of a tower is picking the right time and place. It's best to begin when the better half is comfortable, in a good mood, and predisposed to a rational discussion of this important matter.

You might begin after presenting your mate with a lavish gift prior to going out to dinner. The time may be ripe when the spouse has been hinting about a new outfit, Rolex watch, or car. By all means, be sure the air is clear and the atmosphere cordial. Reasoning along the following lines may help:

1. Remind the boss that visitors often have difficulty spotting your house, for lack of a

suitable landmark. Explain how a 90 foot tower would be visible to all who reach the general vicinity.

2. Point out that, once an imposing structure like an antenna tower is in place, you will be the envy of the neighborhood. Everyone who beholds it will know of your technical aptitude and scientific expertise. Your family will gain new and lasting respect.

3. You might also remind the spouse how much your family needs a sturdy outdoor clothesline, which a stately, rugged tower could support.

4. If you plan to fasten the tower to the house, mention that the tower will anchor your abode against any hurricane, tornado, or earthquake that tries to sweep your castle away.

5. Mention the sensational lighted holiday decorations that you can hoist high, so the whole county can marvel at you decorative skill- a sparkling Christmas Star, a lighted Easter cross, an exploding fire cracker for the 4th, and a turkey silhouette for Thanksgiving, not to mention a flaming heart for Valentine's Day!

6. If the boss fears thunderstorms, say the tower will be grounded in accordance with the best engineering practice, and will provide a cone of protection for your house, making your family as cozy and safe as a bug in a rolled rug.

from the Indian River ARC "Spurious Emissions" and ARNS.

Mark Twain: Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish others!

Tally ho! Chasing the fox

As our repeater becomes more popular it has increasingly become the target of malicious interference. It is the Mid-state ARC policy to ignore that person and continue your conversation as best as possible. At first it may seem to be a major irritation, but in the long run that individual usually loses interest in interfering and leaves the airwaves.

In light of more frequent QRM we have asked Paul Bohrer, W9DUU, to demonstrate his equipment and techniques for DFing unwanted signals. Over the past thirty years Paul has chased malicious signals, balloons and school buses to find the source of interference and stuck transmitters.

Paul's expertise has been used by amateurs and law enforcement officials throughout the midwest. He has chased foxes from Kansas City to Columbus and from the Wisconsin Dells to the mountains of Tennessee.

Bring your ideas and questions to the May 21st meeting and prepare to hear and possibly enter another fun and fascinating area of ham radio.

Don't miss the meeting this Saturday. Program: Fox Hunting with Paul Bohrer W9DUU.

Also VE testing after the meeting.



*** Been trying to figure my adjusted gross income. I adjusted it and it's still gross.

***A teenage girl showed off her prom dress for her father and asked him if it was cut too low. The father answered, "Either that or you're not in it far enough."

***A visitor to Texas was asked, "What do you think of civilization out here?" The visitor answered, "I think it would be a great idea!"

***What's a light year? A year that has 40 percent fewer calories than a regular year.

***You know you are in trouble when you tell your doctor your systems and he keeps backing away from you.

***If it wasn't for the guy who invented TV, we'd still be eating frozen radio dinners!

***The secret ballot is great. It gives you the chance to say that you didn't vote for the guy who got in.

***The pilot sounded confident when he told the passengers, "Two of our engines are out, and the other two are on fire. But don't worry. I'm putting on my parachute and going for help."

*** You have to give my wife a lot of credit. She can't get along without it.

*** One of these days there's going to be as much crime on the street as there is on TV.

*** Criticism shouldn't be allowed to bother you. If it had any power to hurt, the skunk would be extinct.

*** A man went to his doctor and reported, "I take a look in the mirror, and I think I'm looking at a dead man. My face is thin, my cheeks are hollow, my skin is sallow, my hair is falling out. What is it?"

The doctor said, "I don't know. But I can tell you one thing: your eyesight's perfect!"

*** A drunken driver was heading up a one-way street the wrong way. A policeman stopped him, pulled him over, and asked, "Where do you think you are going?"

The drunken driver answered, "I don't know. But I must be late, because everybody else is coming back."

*** He's really something. When he walks into an empty room he blends right in.

*** To grow eggplant, plant a chicken.

*** Experience is what you have when you are too old to get a job.

*** A farmer won \$10 million in a lottery. Asked what he was going to do with the money he answered, "I guess I'll just keep farming till it's gone."

*** A man does a favor for a wealthy potentate. To thank him the potentate asks what gift he can bestow. The man says, "Just get me a couple of golf clubs."

Two weeks later, a note arrives at the man's house. It says, "Bought the golf clubs. One is in Palm Springs, the other is in Florida. But I have to apologize. Only one of them has a swimming pool."

*** An optimist thinks the glass is half-full. The pessimist thinks it's half-empty. The realist knows that before long he will have to wash the glass.



BENS WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

Spring is such a changeable time of year weatherwise in Indiana. The warmer temperatures are welcomed by all, but it's those warmer conditions that can add to atmospheric instability that causes severe thunderstorms.

Such was the case last month when tornadoes touched down in the Hoosier state. On April 15 around 9 a.m. in Indianapolis a F-1 Tornado touched down on the north side of town. Fortunately, no serious injuries occurred. However, on April 28, a more powerful tornado, a F-3 with winds around 160 mph, tore through Klondike, IN (northwest of Lafayette) with considerable damage, over 50 injuries, and 3 deaths.

The tornado touched down at 12:01 a.m. and traveled at over 60 mph before lifting back into the skies at 12:06 a.m.. A severe thunderstorm warning was issued for Tippecanoe county at 12:04 a.m. and then updated to a tornado warning at 12:12 a.m..

Since area sirens are only activated from tornado warnings, the tornado in Klondike (and Indianapolis) caught many by surprise.

The National Weather Service forecast office in Indianapolis has the pressure on this spring to catch

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tornadoes (or at least the mesocyclone that precedes them) on their new multi-million dollar Doppler radar.

It's hoped by everyone that familiarity with the new radar and with how tornadic storms appear on radar here in the Midwest will improve the warning of storms. The Doppler Radar archives weather radar data and allows the retrieval of past storms for further study and analysis.

Climatologically, April was a warmer and wetter than normal month. Indianapolis averaged 54.1 degrees (1.7 warmer than average) and the circle city collected 5.62 inches of rainfall (+1.92"). It appears the month of May could be a continuation of a warm and wet pattern. The National Weather Service 30 day outlook for May has Indiana (and most of the eastern U.S.) with above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

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